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Frozen Food Producer to Bring 342 Jobs to Robeson County

State Grant Helps Steven Roberts Original Desserts Locate in Pembroke

RALEIGH – Gov. Bev Perdue today announced that Steven Roberts Original Desserts and Ticklebelly Desserts, creators, manufacturers and distributors of frozen desserts, will open a new bakery in Robeson County. The company plans to create 342 jobs and invest \$4 million during the next five years in Pembroke. The project was made possible in part by a \$392,000 grant from the One North Carolina Fund.

“We are working hard every day to bring jobs to the people of North Carolina - in particular, the areas that have been hit hardest by the economic recession,” said Gov. Perdue, who joined company leaders for the announcement in Pembroke. “Today’s announcement is a great step for Pembroke and will help more than 300 hundred families.”

Steven Roberts Original Desserts develops and produces a broad line of innovative, premium frozen desserts, selling them directly to restaurants, hotels, theaters and grocery stores. Ticklebelly Desserts leads the industry with innovative, first-to-market gourmet creations for the consumer marketplace including dessert shots, cake pops, dessert minis, cupcakes, molten cakes, cheesecakes and infused cakes. The company plans to purchase and renovate a building in Pembroke to become their third bakery. This new facility will allow expanded production, add manufacturing and shipping redundancy and facilitate scaling dessert production to each client’s needs.

Salaries will vary by job function, but the average annual wage for the new jobs will be \$22,926 plus benefits. The Robeson County average annual wage is \$26,728.

“Steven Roberts Original Desserts and Ticklebelly are thrilled to be a part of the Pembroke community,” stated Charles Kosmont, chairman. “Innovation is at the heart of everything we do, and we look forward to having our Pembroke team members help us to continue to be first to market with innovative, trendsetting desserts,” Kosmont noted.